



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - May 15, 2002

- ***In the West***, very warm, dry weather is maintaining heavy irrigation demands across ***California and the Southwest***. Ranges and dryland crops continue to suffer from the effects of drought across the ***southeastern half of the West***, while lingering soil moisture shortages from the drought of 2000-01 are stressing some dryland small grains across the ***interior Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, isolated showers are developing from the ***Dakotas southward into northern Texas***. Soil moisture remains adequate to locally excessive on the ***eastern Plains***, but drought persists on the ***High Plains***, especially from ***Montana to northwestern Oklahoma***. Meanwhile, unfavorably cool weather is returning to ***Montana***, hampering small grain growth.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm weather and scattered showers are returning to ***western portions of the region***, maintaining generally favorable soil moisture levels for summer crop emergence and development. However, extremely wet field conditions are further delaying corn and soybean planting in the ***Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys***.
- ***In the South***, soil moisture remains mostly favorable for pasture growth, winter grain maturation, and summer crop development across ***interior portions of the region***, but a 5-week spell of very warm, dry weather persists from ***southern Texas to the southern Atlantic States***.

Outlook: Scattered showers will accompany a slow-moving cold front across the ***Great Lakes region*** on Thursday, while more locally heavy rain may fall in the ***Corn Belt***. By Friday, the front will produce showers across the ***Atlantic and Gulf Coast regions*** and on the ***southern Plains***. Unseasonably cold air will trail the front across the ***Midwest*** and into the ***East*** by week's end. In the ***West***, mostly dry weather will persist into the weekend, although scattered showers are possible in the ***Pacific Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for May 20-24 calls for below-normal temperatures for the ***West Coast*** and from the ***Great Lakes States into the Northeast***, while above-normal temperatures are expected from the ***southern Rockies to the Gulf Coast***. Above-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Plains***, but below-normal rainfall is anticipated for the ***southern Rockies, southern Plains, and Southeast***.

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